As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) guidelines issued in February, 1997 States/UTs have been asked to actively involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the identification of targeted families and issue of distinctive ration cards to APL and BPL families. States have been instructed to take every care while issuing ration cards against its possible misuse. Guidelines issued for greater involvement of PRIs in functioning of TPDS, issued in June, 1999 emphasize the role of Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas for checking of ration cards for their genuiness. Government of India has also requested States/UTs to take effective steps for elimination of bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards through door to door surveys, periodical checks so that menace of diversion of subsidized foodgrains is effectively controlled. Government has recently notified Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which *inter-alia* provides for periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards.

Selling of Sugar Quota in Open Market

1856. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar factories have been allowed to sell up to 10 per cent more than their quota in open market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been envisaged for preventing any possible misuse of this facility by sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the requests received from the sugar factories for additional/ advance quota of freesale sugar for clearing cane price dues and storage problem, the Government has allowed them to sell upto 10% of their quarterly quota over and above their normal quota within the quarter.

(c) All the sugar factories availing this facility are required to submit Utilisation Certificates from the Chartered Accountants, duly countersigned by the District Magistrates/Cane Commissioners to the effect that the proceeds from the sale of the additional quota have been utilised for making payment of cane price dues to the farmers.

Rotten Foodgrains

†1857. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 742 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2001 and state:

(a) the total quantum and the details of foodgrains that has rotten actually together with the quantum of foodgrains sold at nominal prices, district-wise;

(b) whether non-lifting is the only factor responsible for the rotting of the foodgrains or whether mismanagement is also responsible for it; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Unstarred question no. 742 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2001 was pertaining to the disposal of foodgrains lying in the godowns in Uttranchal.

At the time of creation of Uttranchal State on 1.4.2001, a quantity of 543 tonnes of rice, 115 tonnes of wheat and 78 tonnes of paddy were categorised as damaged due to prolonged storage. Out of the said quantity, 373 tonnes of rice and 81 tonnes of wheat has been issued free of cost. Further, since 1st April, 2001, 1 (one) tonne has been reportedly damaged, for which responsibility has been fixed.

In addition, responsibility for damaged of 137 MT of rice during storage in the godowns of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.